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A NEW GENUS OF THE SOBRALIEAE

BY

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IN 1936, our attention was called to an extremely puzzling orchid discovered by Walter R. Lindsay in Panama. The general aspect of the plant suggested some species of *Sobralia*, but the structure of the lip, with two basal calli similar to those found in *Elleanthus*, and the details of the column indicated differences sufficiently weighty to warrant recognition of a distinct genus of the Sobralieae standing between *Sobralia* and *Elleanthus*.

Lindsayella *Ames & Schweinfurth gen. nov.*

Divisio: Acrotonae. Tribus: Polychondreae. Subtribus: Sobralieae. Perianthii partes liberae, basi campanulatae, superne patenti-recurvatae. Sepala similia, elliptico-lanceolata. Petala elliptica, sepalis latiora. Labellum inferne columnam circumdans, superne patens, simplex, apice bilobatum, basi cum callis binis approximatis et superne cum carina singula undulata ornatum. Columna gracilis, apoda, apice dilatata; rostellum trilobatum cum lobo intermedio brevissimo lato emarginato. Anthera incumbens, persistens, bilocularis cum loculis bicellularibus. Pollinia octo, in paribus cum glande rigida connexa.

Herba terrestris vel epiphytica. Folia disticha, pauca, perangusta. Vernatio foliorum duplicativa sed in siccitate

valde nervoso-plicata. Flos saepissime solitarius. Species una adhuc reperta, habitu Sobraliae et Elleanthi.

Lindsayella amabilis *Ames & Schweinfurth sp. nov.*

Herba caespitosa, gracilis, radicibus numerosis fibrosis carnosis. Caules graciles, elongati. Folia disticha, ad vaginas arctas tubulares articulata, perangusta. Flos saepissime singulus, terminalis, pulcherrimus, membranaceus, coccineus. Sepala elliptico-lanceolata, acuta; lateralia paulo obliqua. Petala sepalis latiora. Labellum simplex, ambitu subquadrato-obovatum, parte anteriore paulo latiori, apice bilobatum, prope basim cum callis binis approximatis et superne cum carina humili undulata ornatum. Columna gracilis, apice dilatata. Pollinia octo, in paribus connexa.

Plant caespitose, six to ten stems in a cluster. Roots fibrous, numerous, fleshy, branched. Mature flowering stems up to 37.5 cm. tall, slender, up to 3 mm. in diameter, more or less concealed by the leaf-sheaths, glabrous or sometimes lepidote above. Leaves distichous, three to eight on the upper part of the stem, linear-lanceolate, linear-elliptic or linear, the uppermost and lowermost apparently much smaller, up to 10.5 cm. long and 11 mm. wide, rigid and coriaceous, strongly plicate, gradually narrowed to an obtuse or minutely tridenticulate apex, sessile, articulated to close elongate cylindrical sheaths, about 7-nerved, more or less spreading. Inflorescence terminal. Flower usually solitary (very rarely in pairs), rising from between a pair of narrow erect imbricating conduplicate bracts in the axil of the uppermost reduced leaf, showy, membranaceous, rose-pink, odorless, blooming from about 6 o'clock in the morning until about 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening (ephemeral). Perianth segments free, campanulate at the base, spreading and recurved above. Dorsal sepal elliptic-lanceolate, about 2.7

cm. long when spread out, 7 mm. wide, acute, 9-nerved at the base. Lateral sepals similar, about 2.8 cm. long, 7.6 mm. wide, acute, 9-nerved at the base, slightly oblique. Petals elliptic, about 2.5 cm. long and 11.8 mm. wide, acute, 9-nerved near the base. Lip surrounding the column, subquadrate-obovate in outline, simple, bilobed at the apex with each lobule again bilobed near the centre of the lip, about 3.1 cm. long from the base to the tip of a lobule and about 11.9 mm. wide near the apex; lamina with the margin irregularly crenulate, provided near the base with a pair of closely approximate semiellipsoid calli in front of which is a small transverse fleshy thickening, from near this thickening to near the middle sinus between the lobules there is a slightly elevated undulate white keel. Column slender, abruptly dilated at the apex, about 12.3 mm. long measuring along the anterior grooved surface, irregularly lobulate above; rostellum 3-lobed with the small lateral lobes subquadrate and truncate-retuse and the very short and broad mid-lobe shallowly retuse. Anther persistent, incumbent, 2-celled with each cell 2-chambered. Pollinia apparently eight, each pair connected by a fleshy-granular transverse band.

Lindsayella amabilis superficially resembles a delicate small-flowered *Sobralia* or *Fregea*. However, the flowers resemble *Elleanthus* in having a basal pair of calli on the lip, but differ from the flowers of that genus in being relatively very large occurring singly (rarely two being produced on each stem). In addition to the differentiating characters exhibited by the inflorescence and lip, the structure of the column and the form of the pollinia serve to separate *Lindsayella* from all of the allied genera.

PANAMA, Province of Chiriqui, El Valle. At 2000 feet altitude. In crevices of rocks or more rarely on a very large dead tree. July 22, 1935. *Walter R. Lindsay and G. H. Bevens s.n.* (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 45675.)